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No. 9

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 24, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

LET'S GET REAL ABOUT THE DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. Well, by all accounts we're finally going to get serious about

the mountain of debt that's been built up over the last 10 years that we're going to leave for our kids and grandkids—nearly \$14 trillion, a number that's hard to actually understand.

Now, I'm hopeful it will really be a serious discussion, but it can't be as long as the Republican rules stand. The Republicans have said that if you reduce income to the government that that doesn't count toward the debt or the deficit. You have to borrow the money—probably from China—and it goes on the debt for our kids and grandkids. But they don't count that because it's your money. We're giving it back to you. Except, of course, we're still spending more than is coming in.

Now, I'm all for looking at the expenditure side, and there are a lot of places I'd like to cut. Republicans have put some of them off-limits.

We can't look anywhere in the Pentagon who is still acquiring through cost-plus contracts weapons that were designed to fight during the Soviet era. We're wasting a fair amount of money over there. It's well documented.

The Pentagon is the only agency of the Federal Government that can't be audited. Every other agency is audited. Most of them get good grades. The Pentagon, they say maybe within 5 years they will have an accounting system that could be audited. Come on. And we're going to exempt them from scrutiny and review and cuts?

The war in Afghanistan, they've exempted that from cuts. They want to spend about \$200 billion this year on the wind-down in Iraq and the war in

Afghanistan. But that's off the table as far as Republicans are concerned.

And Social Security they say is off the table, and that's good. Medicare is off the table. They just added to the costs of Medicare with legislation they passed last week, but that doesn't count either. That was exempt.

So what's left? Well, we're going to have, because of the tax cuts adopted in December, a \$1.6 trillion 1-year deficit. Now, if we were only going to get to a balanced budget this year with cuts, that would mean eliminating the entire government of the United States of America. We'd still make our Social Security payments. And we wouldn't be able to exempt the Pentagon, which they want to do, if we wanted to really get to \$1.6 trillion.

No more Border Patrol. No more Homeland Security. No more Coast Guard. No more Postal Service. No more Centers for Disease Control. Department of Education, gone. They wouldn't care much about that. Park Service I guess would probably sell off the parks to the highest bidder. I don't know.

So you can't be serious and stand here and say we're going to put this hand and tie it behind our back, which is the revenue side. Oh, and by the way, if we give millionaires and billionaires tax cuts and reduce our income, that doesn't count. If we allow corporations to continue to use overseas tax loopholes to avoid paying a responsible level of taxes here in the United States, that doesn't count. Can't close any loopholes. That would be bad. No.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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